sively their ecologic behavior, seasonal variation, reproduction, and other points of scientific as well as economic interest. We shall, therefore, be extremely grateful for samples from any district in which the plants grow, and shall be pleased to send instructions for the taking of these. However, even a small portion of the basal part of the stem will be helpful, since this will enable us to make a preliminary examination to determine the desirability of securing more abundant material.

The above partial outline of the results thus far obtained will be followed in due time by a detailed report on our studies.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

The Parliamentary Paper dealing with Class IV. of the Estimates for Civil Services for the year ending March 31, 1919, is summarized in *Nature*. A special grant of £30,000 is included in aid of certain universities, colleges, medical schools, etc., to meet loss of income arising from circumstances of war. It may be remembered that the Estimates for 1915–16 included a similar grant of £145,000 for the same purpose. The grant for the National Physical Laboratory has been transferred from the head of the Royal Society, under which it formerly appeared, to that of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It amounts to £89,750, being an increase of £64,475 upon the grant for 1917–18. The state receives, however, for testing fees and other services rendered by the laboratory the sum of £11,250, and £3,000 as contributions from cooperating bodies. The new Fuel Research Station has a grant of £7,000, of which £4,000 is required for salaries and wages, and £3,000 for apparatus, materials, etc. The grants made by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research amount to £56,500, in comparison with £30,000 in 1917–18. The salaries, wages and allowances of the department are estimated at £8,900.

The following gives the grants in summary:

UNITED KINGDOM AND ENGLAND

	£
Board of Education	19,206,705
British Museum	126,142
National Gallery	11,639
National Portrait Gallery	3,779
Wallace Collection	4,012
London Museum	2,300
Imperial War Museum	19,000
Scientific Investigation, etc.	54,241
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	148,350
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain and Intermediate Education, Wales	321,700
Universities, etc., Special Grants	30,000
Scotland	
Public Education	3,041,545
National Galleries	4,283
Ireland	
Public Education	2,203,104
Intermediate Education (Ireland)	90,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	855
National Gallery	1,830
Science and Art	163,393
Universities and Colleges	96,350
Total	25,529,228

The appropriations for scientific institutions are as follows:

	£
British Museum	90,022
Natural History Museum	44,045
Imperial War Museum	19,000
Royal Society	6,000
Meteorological Office	22,500
Royal Geographical Society	1,250
Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom	500
Royal Society of Edinburgh	600
Scottish Meteorological Society	100
Royal Irish Academy	1,600
Royal Irish Academy of Music	300
Royal Zoological Society of Ireland	500
Royal Hibernian Academy	300
British School of Athens	—
British School at Rome	500
Royal Scottish Geographical Society	200
National Library of Wales	3,200
National Museum of Wales	7,500
Solar Physics Observatory	3,000

School of Oriental Studies	4,000
North Sea Fisheries Investigation	—
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	500
Edinburgh Observatory	1,691

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Grants for investigation and research	56,500
Fuel Research Station	7,000
National Physical Laboratory	89,750

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE WAR

A WAR conference of secretaries of the constituent State Associations of the American Medical Association was held at the headquarters of the association on April 30. From the *Journal* of the association we learn that the meeting was called to order by Dr. Alexander R. Craig, secretary of the association. Dr. Thomas McDavitt, of St. Paul, chairman of the board of trustees, was elected chairman, and Dr. A. R. Craig, secretary. Dr. McDavitt emphasized the great importance of the meeting. He said the government had made a new call for physicians. There are already in the service, in the different corps, at the present time about 20,000 physicians. The issues involved are so great that the government is anxious to have an excess if possible. The 5,000 physicians that are requested now do not provide for an excess.

Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan, president-elect of the association, spoke of the importance of a survey of every state with a view of recording exactly how many medical men there are in each state, and how many have applied for commissions in the Medical Reserve Corps. This work, he said, can be perfected, as is contemplated and as requested by the Surgeon-General of the Army, by the American Medical Association through its county and state societies.

Dr. Charles Mayo, president of the association, said:

The medical profession was almost the first to become well organized before the war began, because we have had an organization for a long time. So far as the association is concerned, it was easy for organized medicine to get the names of the men we needed to do their bit. In fact, they had been doing their bit by going over to help Britain, France and Serbia in every possible way.

Our profession is organized, but around the outskirts is a great deal of disorganization that has been held over from the methods of the profession in advancing their work in education. In the early period there were in Washington about eighteen bureaus, boards and departments that had to do with medicine. Each of these bureaus and departments spends a great deal of money, and there is absolutely no coordination and no one will let go. Each head wants to be chairman of the committee to look after it. The more we study the question, the more we find that there will be no change until we get a real department of health with an officer in the cabinet to look after it, and then we will have an organization.

A serious problem comes to mind in relation to France. There they have not had any medical schools running for four years. In England the same thing is true. With the natural death rate of doctors and no new degrees granted, it means a great deduction, and the danger that when the schools have started again, there will be lowered standards. I think organized medicine in this country did great service in seeing to it that the government did not in developing draft laws break up the medical schools. I think that has been one of the greatest features shown by organized medicine.

The thing I have been hoping for is that funds may be obtained to develop a great medical teaching institution in Paris. From letters received from the French government, the president and others high in authority, this idea is approved. We could move our men over there a thousand at a time and they could be trained by men at the front who for four years have had at their fingers' ends things that we can not possibly get in this country. I would suggest to turn over now for teaching purposes two thirds to the Americans and one third to France, and after the war make France a present of it, and make Paris the center for American medical study in Europe. It takes a lot of money to run such an institution, but it looks as though the money might be raised. It is estimated that it would take from $100,000 to $150,000 under present circumstances to run such a school for a year. It is most difficult to bring about such a thing under government control. Something like that must be planned by organized medicine, but not by government organized medicine, and turned over to the Surgeon-General for the period of the war. Surgeon-General Gorgas could easily detail